

# Shetland Local Plan District (LPD 4)

Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-2027

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## Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-2027



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The Shetland Local Plan District covers an area of around 1,500km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of approximately 23,000 people. It includes all the islands from the Fair Isle in the south to Unst in the north, 16 of the islands are inhabited.

The islands are mainly gently sloping hills with areas of flat and lower lying ground present closer to the coast. Land cover is bog and heather grassland on the hills, with improved grazing on lower croft land and with some scattered agricultural land, particularly in the south. There are a number of large inland lochs, including Loch of Spiggie. The coastline is approximately 2,700km long and is typically hard and rugged with deep inlets (voes) and occasional beaches.

The main risk of flooding in Shetland is from coastal flooding. Shetland has been affected by coastal flooding from a combination of high tides, storm surges and waves. In December 2013 cyclone Xaver caused coastal flooding in many areas, including Sumburgh Airport and Lerwick. Catchments are generally small and surface water flooding tends to be from local intense flash floods notably in August 2018 when rainfall and flash flooding affected a number of areas, including Scalloway. Heavy rainfall can also trigger peat slides on steep slopes such as occurred most notably in Sandwick and Channerwick in 2003, but also at Uradale in 2012, and in various other undeveloped locations.

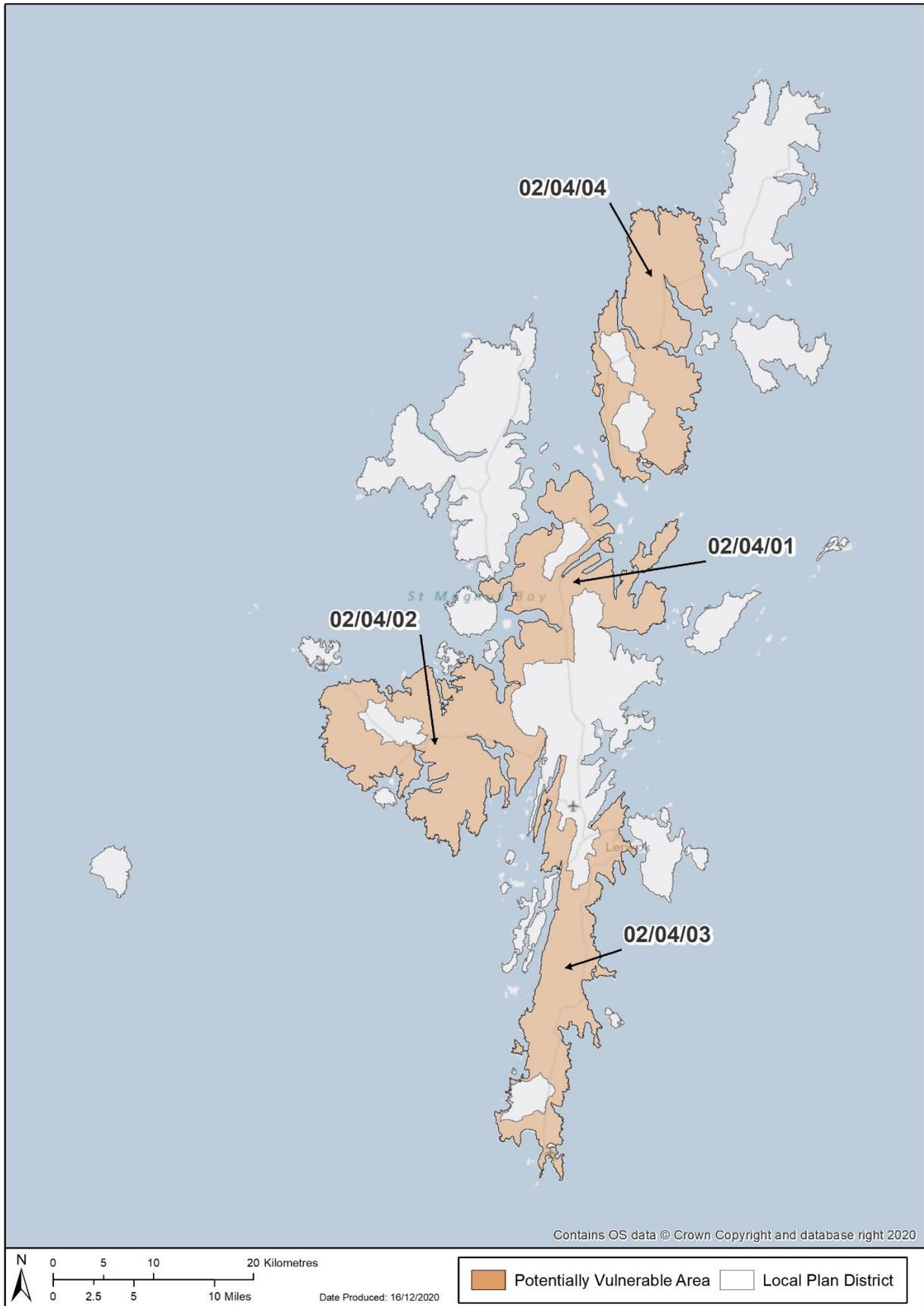
Currently it is estimated that there are 210 people and 230 homes and businesses at risk from flooding. This may increase to 300 people and 300 homes and businesses by the 2080s due to climate change. The annual cost of flooding is approximately £650,000. Note however that flooding from wave overtopping is not fully represented in the assessment of flood risk and the impact of coastal flooding may be underestimated.

SEPA lead development of the Flood Risk Management Strategies for Scotland and delivery of flood warning services. Local flood risk management planning is led by Shetland Islands Council. The other responsible authority in this district is Scottish Water. They are

supported by Scottish Government agencies including Forestry and Land Scotland, Scottish Forestry and Transport Scotland.

Within this Local Plan District, actions are regularly carried out by SEPA and responsible authorities to help prepare communities for potential flooding and reduce the impact of any flooding that does occur. More information on these actions will be added to this section for 22 March 2021.

Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVA) were designated in 2018 based on the potential current or future risk from all sources of flooding. This designation was informed by the National Flood Risk Assessment ([link](#)). As part of continued analysis of flood risk, the National Flood Risk Assessment and PVAs will be reviewed every six years to take on board any new information. There are four PVAs in the Shetland Local Plan District. Following sections provide more information on these areas.



**Figure 1. Potentially Vulnerable Areas in Shetland Local Plan District**

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PVA Ref	PVA NAME	Local Authority
02/04/01	<a href="#">Shetland North Mainland</a>	Shetland
02/04/02	<a href="#">Shetland West Mainland</a>	Shetland
02/04/03	<a href="#">Shetland Central and South Mainland</a>	Shetland
02/04/04	<a href="#">Yell</a>	Shetland

## 02/04/01 (Shetland North Mainland)

This area is designated as a Potentially Vulnerable Area due to the risk of coastal flooding in Vidlin. Coastal flood risk is likely to increase due to sea level rise caused by climate change.

There is 1 area in this PVA, which has been the focus of further assessment, this is identified below. Further information on the proposed objectives and actions to manage flood risk within this area will be provided in Phase 2 of the consultation (launching on 22nd March 2021).

### List of target areas

Vidlin (Target Area 369)

## 02/04/02 (Shetland West Mainland)

This area is designated as a Potentially Vulnerable Area due to coastal flood risk to Walls. Coastal flood risk is likely to increase due to sea level rise caused by climate change.

There is 1 area in this PVA, which has been the focus of further assessment, this is identified below. Further information on the proposed objectives and actions to manage flood risk within this area will be provided in Phase 2 of the consultation (launching on 22nd March 2021).

### List of target areas

Walls (Target Area 368)

## 02/04/03 (Shetland Central and South Mainland)

This area is designated as a Potentially Vulnerable Area due to the risk of flooding from small rivers and surface water to Cunningsburgh, Lerwick and Scalloway.

There are 3 areas in this PVA, which have been the focus of further assessment, these are listed below. Further information on the proposed objectives and actions to manage flood risk within these areas will be provided in Phase 2 of the consultation (launching on 22nd March 2021).

**List of target areas**

Lerwick	(Target Area 383)
Scalloway	(Target Area 442)
Cunningsburgh	(Target Area 448)

**02/04/04 (Yell)**

This area is designated as a Potentially Vulnerable Area due to the risk of coastal flooding to the main access road to the ferry terminal in Yell. Coastal flood risk is likely to increase due to sea level rise caused by climate change. Recent flooding was a result of coastal flooding.

There is 1 area in this PVA, which has been the focus of further assessment, this is identified below. Further information on the proposed objectives and actions to manage flood risk within this area will be provided in Phase 2 of the consultation (launching on 22nd March 2021).

**List of target areas**

Cullivoe	(Target Area 388)
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